

P23561.A01



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Masami SHIRAI et al.

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned Yet

Appln. No. : 10/619,499

Examiner: Not Assigned Yet

Filed : July 16, 2003

For : OBSERVATION OPTICAL DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 4,067,027 to YAMAZAKI, issued on January 3, 1978. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 3 of the specification of the instant application;

U.S. Patent No. 6,088,053 to HAMMACK et al., issued on July 11, 2000;

International Publication No. WO 01/52531 A1, published on July 19, 2001 which is a family member of above noted U.S. Patent No. 6,088,053;

Japanese Patent Publication No. 36-12387, published on August 2, 1961, together with an English language translation of the same. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 5 of the specification of the instant application;

Japanese Unexamined Utility Model No. 6-2330, published on January 14, 1994, together with an English language translation of the same. Applicants note that this document is

P23561.A01

discussed on page 2 of the specification of the instant application; and

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-281555, published on October 10, 2001, together with English language patent family member U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0028498 A1, published on October 11, 2001.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents and enclosed translations. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/255,588 to ABE, entitled "Viewing Apparatus Having a Photographing System", filed on September 27, 2002;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/255,589 to ABE, entitled "Viewing Apparatus Having a Photographing System", filed on September 27, 2002;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/255,609 to HIRUNUMA et al., entitled "Optical Viewer Instrument with Photographing Function", filed on September 27, 2002;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/255,690 to ABE, entitled "Viewing Apparatus Having a Photographing System", filed on September 27, 2002; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/255,760 to ENOMOTO et al., entitled "Optical Viewer Instrument with Photographing Function", filed on September 27, 2002.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-mentioned applications are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Masami SHIRAI et al.

Will Bogdik
Reg. No. 44,550

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

October 15, 2003
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

OCT 16 2003

Sheet 1 of 1